

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /092 W

----- 020647

R 111731Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9261

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 889

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EEC

SUBJECT: THE EC COMMISSION REPORT ON EUROPEAN UNION: DEFENSE  
POLICY

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 5745  
(B) EC BRUSSELS 5853  
(C) EC BRUSSELS 6157

1. THE EC COMMISSION'S SUMMARY VERSION OF ITS REPORT ON  
EUROPEAN UNION (REF B) EXPRESSED THE COMMISSION'S VIEW THAT  
ULTIMATELY A EUROPEAN UNION CANNOT AVOID COMING TO GRIPS WITH  
THE PROBLEM OF DEFENSE, NOTING HOWEVER THAT INTEGRATION IN  
THE DEFENSE FIELD WILL DEPEND AND FOLLOW ON PROGRESS  
IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN POLICY AND IN STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY'S  
OVERALL SOLIDARITY.

2. THE MISSION HAS NOW RECEIVED AND IS TRANSMITTING THE FULL  
VERSION OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT. IN ADDITION TO POINTING  
OUT THAT THE "ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY  
A DECISIVE ROLE IN THE SECURITY OF WESTERN EUROPE," THE REPORTS  
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MAKES THE FOLLOWING FURTHER POINTS ON DEFENSE:

A. ONE WAY OF TAKING ACCOUNT OF DEFENSE MATTERS WHEN THE EUROPEAN UNION IS ESTABLISHED WOULD BE TO MAKE DEFENSE A FIELD OF " POTENTIAL COMPETENCE" FOR THE UNION (THUS THE UNION WOULD HAVE NO POWERS OR MEANS OF ACTION IN DEFENSE MATTERS AT THE OUTSET: THEIR ELABORATION WOULD BE LEFT TO SOME UNSPECIFIED PROCEDURE IN THE FUTURE).

B. ALIGNMENT OF MEMBER STATES' DEFENSE POLICIES WOULD BE DESIRABLE EVEN OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TREATY OF EUROPEAN UNION AND MIGHT EVEN FACILITATE CREATION OF THE UNION. AS WAYS OF ACHIEVING THIS "ALIGNMENT," THE COMMISSION FORESEES:

1) PERIODIC DISCUSSION ON DEFENSE PROBLEMS AND THE DEFENSE EFFORT;

2) "SYSTEMATIC COMPARISON OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES WITH THE AIM OF ARRIVING AT A COMMON VIEW, TAKING ACCOUNT OF ANY SPECIFIC INTERESTS OF EUROPE"; AND

3) THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON POLICY ON ARMS AND EQUIPMENT, "POSSIBLY INVOLVING THE SETTING UP OF A 'EUROPEAN ARMS AGENCY,'"

WHICH WOULD BRING ABOUT A MORE RATIONAL USE OF THE AVAILABLE FUNDS AND THE INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF THE MEMBER STATES." IN THIS CONNECTION, THE COMMISSION OBSERVES THAT THE LACK OF A COMMON POLICY ON ARMS PRODUCTION HAS LED TO EXCESSIVE DEPENDENCE ON SOURCES OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY AND ADVERSELY AFFECTS "EUROPE'S SCOPE FOR INDEPENDENCE."

3. COMMENT: AS WE OBSERVED IN REF B, THE COMMISSION'S REPORT WAS CONCEIVED AS A CONTRIBUTION TO AN ONGOING DEBATE (MANDATED BY THE 1972 PARIS SUMMIT) ON WHAT A FUTURE EUROPEAN UNION MIGHT LOOK LIKE. IT IS NOT REGARDED AS A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE; THE COMMISSION OBSERVES THAT IT HAS LIMITED ITSELF TO WHAT SHOULD AND COULD BE THE ELEMENTS OF UNION IN CERTAIN FIELDS. ALTHOUGH THE COMMISSION REPORT PUTS DEFENSE POLICY EVEN FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD AS A "POTENTIAL COMPETENCE" OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, ITS INCLUSION EVEN IN THIS CONTEXT WAS NOT WELCOMED BY ALL THE COMMISSIONERS. (REF C)

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING REPORTS, MILITARY POLICIES, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ECBRU06338  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750240-1123  
**From:** EC BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750761/aaaacchhs.tel  
**Line Count:** 96  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 EC BRUSSELS 5745  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <23 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**  

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE EC COMMISSION REPORT ON EUROPEAN UNION: DEFENSE POLICY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MILI, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006